



State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 7841, Madison, WI 53707-7841
125 South Webster Street, Madison, WI 53702
(608) 266-3390 **TDD** (608) 267-2427 **FAX** (608) 267-1052
Internet Address: www.dpi.state.wi.us

Elizabeth Burmaster
State Superintendent

A NEW WISCONSIN PROMISE

Elizabeth Burmaster
State Superintendent of Public Instruction
July 2, 2001

Thank you, Chief Justice Abrahamson. I am deeply honored to have the opportunity today to take my oath from you to serve the people of Wisconsin.

Thank you to my family and all of you here today from throughout our great state for joining me in this celebration.

Because, today we come together to celebrate a new beginning in our state's rich and proud progressive tradition.

In the April election, the people of Wisconsin sent a message, loud and clear, that they wanted a State Superintendent of Public Instruction who was independent, who was accountable to them. I stand here today ready to serve you, the people of Wisconsin, as the independent, chief advocate for our children and their education. I welcome this challenge and opportunity, and I promise I will serve you well at this critical time when we must come together around our shared value and responsibility to put our children first.

I ask you to join me to seize this opportunity to shape our state's future by making a New Wisconsin Promise for our children. The struggles will be tough but must be shared by a collective faith in ourselves and in our hopes for every child in Wisconsin. Through the public faith and rekindling of hope, the New Wisconsin Promise of quality education for every child will be realized.

Together, we can make this a state where we break down the greatest barriers to education, a state where hope is alive for every Wisconsin child to have a better life, a state where we make the commitment to lift the hope-filled hearts of our children up to their dreams.

Together, we can make this a state where we recognize and appreciate the important contributions our teachers make in the classroom, in our great schools, and in our communities.

Together, we can make this a state where our public servants balance the budget with our value to put our children and their education first.

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Our common ground is our New Wisconsin Promise—to ensure the opportunity of a quality education for every child. Our New Wisconsin Promise raises us to the higher ground of common effort through community, not division through partisan politics.

Our choice is not whether change will come but rather how we will guide that change in the service of our promise to our children.

All too often, the division of partisan politics has very little to do with your everyday lives or the lives of our children and stands in the way of action.

It is you, your lives, and our children I begin to serve today. It is your voice that I will bring to this office. It is your stories I will tell.

The stories of shared responsibility.

The stories of a public faith in community.

The stories of a common commitment to opportunity for every child.

The stories of hope.

That is my promise to you. I ask you to join me in making a New Wisconsin Promise for our children and public education.

Thank you.